

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, January 2, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. 1509 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, January 2nd., 1879. My dear Mrs. Bell:

Alec and I were very glad to hear from you this morning and thank you for the pretty cards enclosed. When you write to Mrs. Cathcart please thank her for those she sent. He were much pleased at her remembrance. I only wish I had thought of such a graceful Christmas greeting myself but we have been too much tossed about to have time to think of graceful things.

I am glad to may that Elsie is getting better, we like our new doctor very much, he is gentle and kind and we think known how to treat babies. Elsie showed a new tooth yesterday as her New Year's present to us. She is bright and lively and does not cough so much, the doctor thinks she may be getting over whooping cough, and that when it is warm enough for her to go out, she will get better fast, at present she is still confined to the two rooms.

New Year's day was dismal and money and I dressed up in vain for callers. But Alec who did his duty pretty bravely says some of the avenues were thronged with carriages and before the houses there were constant streams of gentlemen going in and cut. Mamma had no callers as all her friends are either Congressmen or connected with congress and are home for the holidays. Alec and I dined with Mamma, but as both Papa and Barta are in New York, we were rather a small and quiet party. My boxes from New York have not come yet and Alec fears he may have to go on and see about them himself. It is very hard having to wait so long for our things and we are getting very impatient.

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Alec is busy and happy with his shorthand reporter and errand boy, he has been putting up wires all over the house and I hope will accomplish a good deal this winter. Our telephone line between our house and Mamma's is up and working nicely.

I am so glad you arrived safely and unharmed at your journeys and. But what a pity you did not see Niagara. The papers are full of accounts of 2 the beautiful ice bridge formed just below the falls. It must be a sight worth seeing.

Please give my love to Mary and Louise and Lizzie. I hope they had a pleasant Christmas though it must have been rather a quiet one. But there I am forgetting you must be in Kingston now I hope you like the place and find pleasant people there.

With love to Mr. Bell, Affectionately, May Bell. Elsie says Baabaabaa all the time now and is much pleased with her new accomplishment. Please send the enclosed note to the doctor who attended Alec and Elsie in Canada I forget his name. We shall be glad to see Miss Home though I am disappointed she cannot have her new teeth before she comes.